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FDA/Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
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To Whom it May Concern,

Why has handling and cooking eggs and meat has become akin to defusing a nuclear bomb? Intensive farming as it exists in the U.S. today promotes food borne disease by its very nature and will do so as long as this kind of farming continues to be largely unmonitored by federal law.

To reduce foodborne illness, citing Docket No: 97N-0074, one practice that needs to be immediately banned is forced molting. Laying hens are routinely deprived of food and water for weeks at a time to manipulate egg prices. This starvation weakens their immune system, making it harder for them to fight off bacteria which quickly multiply inside their bodies. In addition, starving hens will consume anything they can get, including dirty litter and contaminated feathers. This situation is extremely dangerous to public health, especially for the young, elderly, and immune suppressed, and the FDA has the jurisdiction to ban such practices.

In addition to being unhealthy for humans, modern factory farming is consistently cruel and subjects feeling animals to severe chronic pain from bodies which have been medicated, manipulated, mutilated and mistreated for just a little more productivity and a little more cost efficiency. If as businessmen we cannot justify a kinder, gentler way of farming, then perhaps as human beings we can.

Sincerely,



Julie R. Van Horn

97N-0074

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